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TORRANCE PRESS

Our Schools: a Gyp Off the Old Blockheads

There is nothing so pitiable as a defense of something that cannot be defended. It is pathetic to see a sloppy, cumbersome, wasteful, stumbling school system reeling through a blubbing alibi for its dismal failure to do its job.

Give it a left jab, and it thinks it has been black-jacked. We mentioned last week that there is room for improvement. Although the surface barely was scratched, a veritable thunderclap of reaction followed — for the most part on the side of truth and sense.

The fact is that the school system is an unutterable flop. Its job is to educate — to give to people the mental tools they need if they are to succeed or even survive.

By embracing uncountable pursuits that have nothing whatever to do with developing a mentality, the schools are gypping youth at every turn of the road.

How such activities as corrective ballet, driver education, and enduring knee-bends on a clammy lawn ever became part of mental development is infinitely clearer to the officials than to this present writer.

We have not run across one product of today's so-called education who can state with accuracy why the Boston Tea Party was conducted, why John Hancock was so eager to sign the Declaration of Independence, or why the federal government originally was formed.

But we have encountered graduates by the score who are unspeakably ignorant even of the fundamentals of making themselves understood. They have not the vaguest conception of sentence construction, spelling, composition, syntax, pronunciation, punctuation, or the meanings of words.

Only in this day and age are we privileged to be appalled by mispronunciations of such elementary words as renege, route, finis, insurance, cigar, cement, genuine, formidable, exquisite, or juvenile.

The patient listener constantly is forced to endure such monstrosities as the use of comprise for compose, maintain for contend, loan for lend, sideways for side-wise, such for so, healthy for wholesome, empty for vacant, infer for imply, refuse for decline, rest for remainder, poisonous for venomous, genuine for authentic, people for persons, practically for virtually. The list is long, but the hour is late, and we invariably are at loss for examples when we need them.

Can anything be plainer than the fact that our children simply are not being taught?

It is declared with a straight face that sports will teach the youth fair play and consideration. One good lecture would do the job more quickly and effectively. Worse, when he gets into the cruel, cold world on his own, he will discover that fair play is the shortest route to the poor house.

We do not elect a general to run the armies nor a pilot to guide the jet liner across the Pacific.

But we do elect school boards, and that was our first and most egregious mistake. Education is safe only in the hands of educators.



'Worth Waiting For' WATCH!

Polynesian Plans for Thanksgiving

Reservations for native-style Thanksgiving dinners are being taken at The Polynesian.

Following island ceremonies at the imu pit, beginning at 1 p.m., establishment will feature four full-course holiday dinners.

Dinner entrees include Kalua turkey, Kalua chicken, Kalua ham, and Kalua pig.

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A Dramatic Advance in EYE SAFETY for Workers

Eye damage from shattering glass is a hazard for thousands of shop workers and others who require vision correction on the job. But now a dramatic advance in eye safety has been made by the development of a crystal clear, UNBREAKABLE plastic that can be made in nearly any kind of prescription for eyeglasses, including bifocals. This remarkable new plastic is less than half as heavy as glass lenses, and it thus combines approved vision correction, safety and comfort.

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Air Force Orders Advanced Ryan Firebee

Assuring production into mid-1961, a follow-on contract in excess of \$10,000,000 has been awarded to the Ryan Aeronautical Company for an additional large quantity of Q-2C Firebee jet-propelled target systems which have set speed altitude and duration records for production type targets, T. Claude Ryan, president, announced today.

This latest order follows two earlier contracts — one for \$2,400,000 for manufacture of an initial quantity for the flight test program, and another for \$5,600,000 for the first production quantity. Tooling for the production program was procured under this latter air-force order and is nearing completion. Deliveries are due to begin in January.

In addition to the production contracts for this transonic, most

advanced version of America's most widely used jet target, spares and ground support equipment to be provided by Ryan for the initial production order are expected to total in excess of \$4,000,000.

The Q-2C successor to the Q-2A, sole target used in the World-Wide Weapons Meets of 1958 and 1959 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., has undergone an intensive testing program at Holloman AFB, N.M., where it has attained an altitude of 59,800 feet, a speed of Mach .96, and duration of 77 1/2 minutes powered flight above 50,000 feet.

Indicative of its endurance for long target missions is another record established by this most advanced version of the Firebee series — 96.8 minutes of remote controlled flight.

Other improvements are an electronic miss-distance scoring system, a visual identification system, and an entirely automatic low-altitude recovery system.

At altitudes below 15,000 feet, the Q-2C automatically enters a power-off climb and gains altitude until the airspeed slows to 180 knots, at which time the drag and main chutes lower the target to earth or water.

Pact Awarded for 12 Buildings at Airport

A \$24,090,383.56 contract, largest in development of International Airport and covering 12 buildings in the terminal area, has been awarded to Robert E. McKee General Contractor, El Paso.

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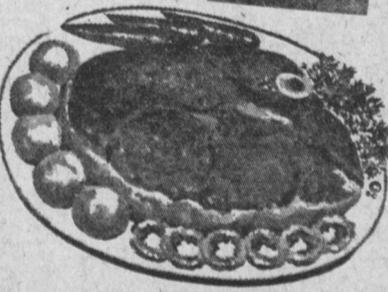
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